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CENTRAL PARK /NEW YORK CITY – Case Study

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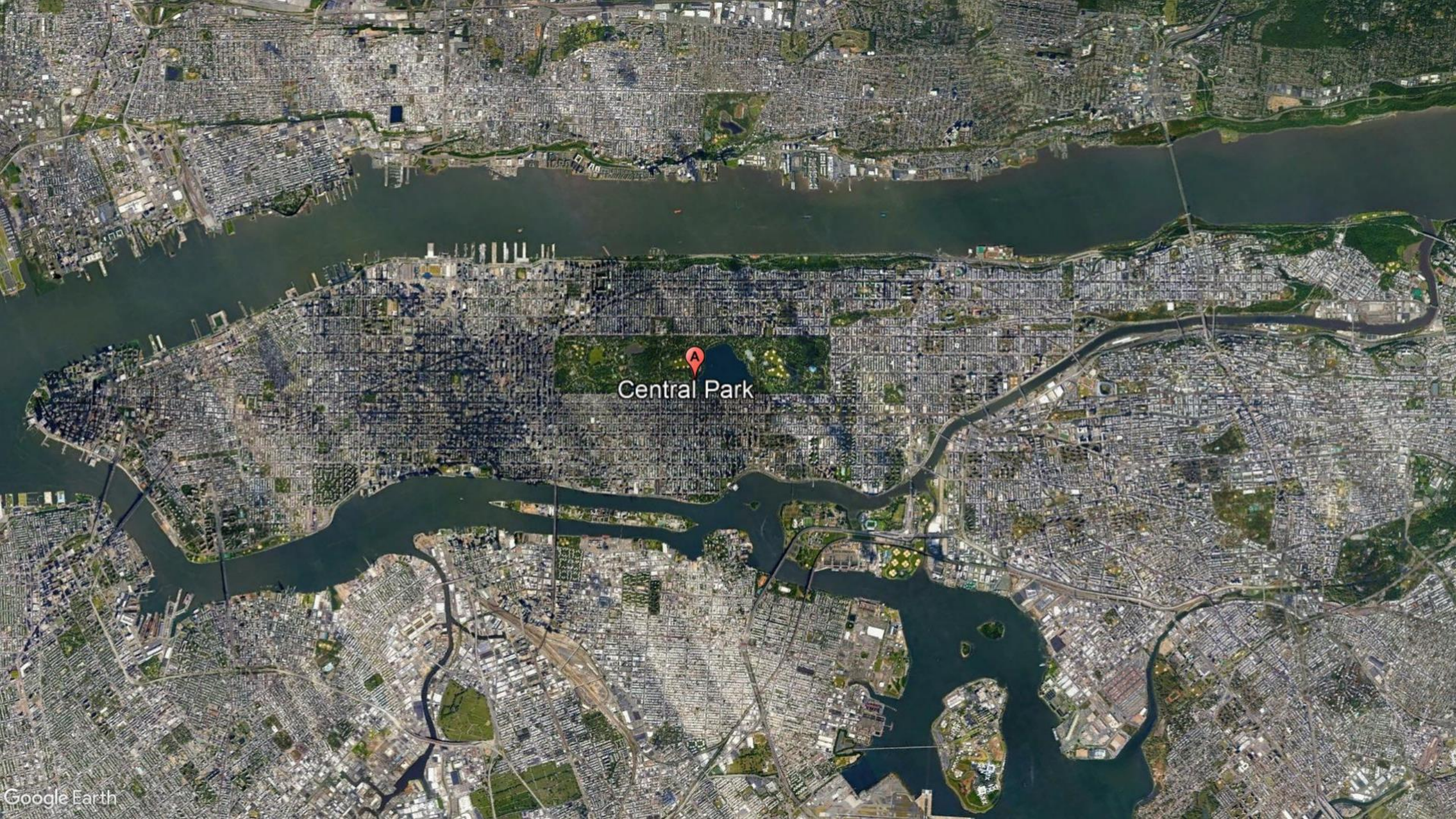


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Master Program of Urban Planning and Landscape Architecture
UPLA 623 - History of Landscape

CENTRAL PARK - Case Study
NEW YORK CITY





Central Park

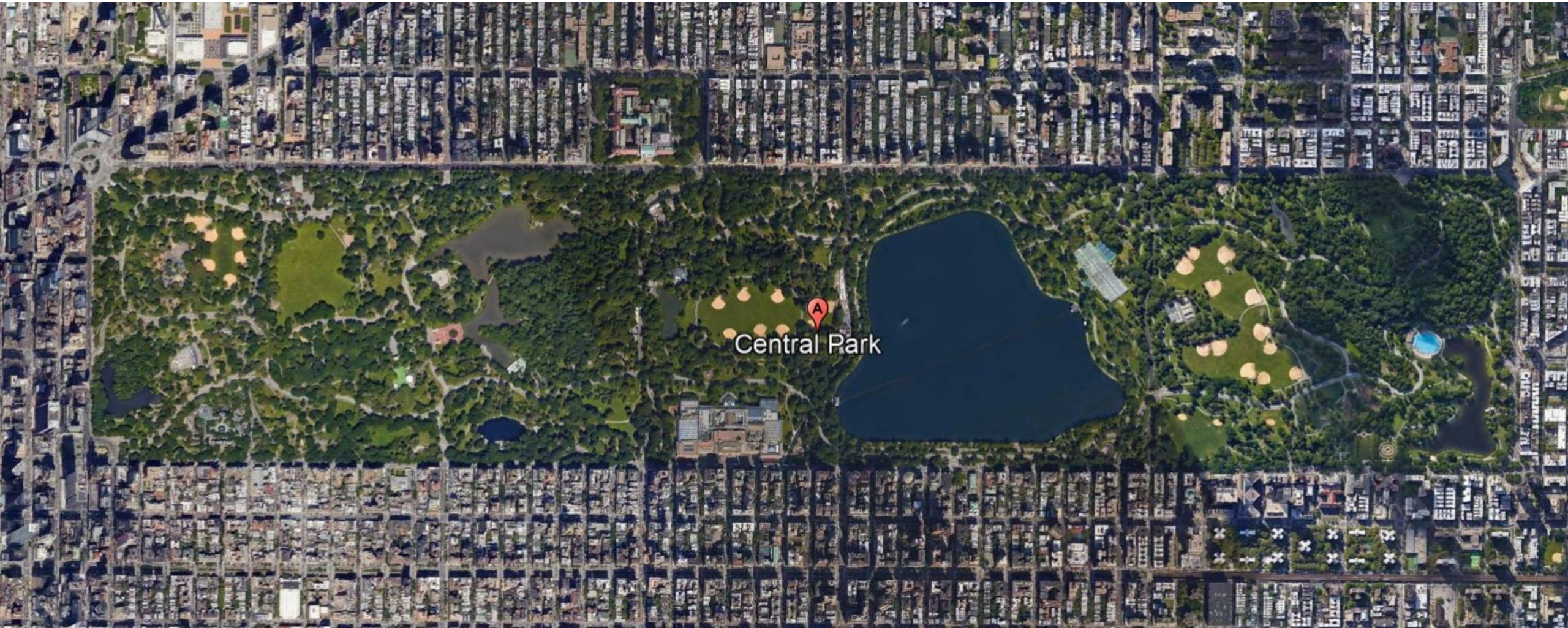
Location

- Central Park fits itself in the center of **Manhattan**, New York City.
- The region of **Manhattan** Classified/Remarked for **skyscrapers**



Area

- Central Park is the **Fifth-largest park** in New York City.
- The massive park spreads over an area of;
843 acres or 341 ha or 3.41 km² (4 km × 800 m).



Top ten **city parks** by area in New York

1. **Pelham Bay Park**, **Bronx**, 2,765 acres (11.19 km²)
2. **Greenbelt**, **Staten Island**, 1,778 acres (7.20 km²)
3. **Van Cortlandt Park**, **Bronx**, 1,146 acres (4.64 km²)
4. **Flushing Meadows-Corona Park**, **Queens** 897 acres (3.63 km²)
5. **Central Park**, **Manhattan**, 843 acres (3.41 km²)
6. **Freshkills Park**, **Staten Island**, 813 acres (3.29 km²)
7. **Marine Park**, **Brooklyn**, 798 acres (3.23 km²)
8. **Bronx Park**, **Bronx**, 718 acres (2.91 km²)
9. **Alley Pond Park**, **Queens**, 655 acres (2.65 km²)
10. **Forest Park**, **Queens**, 544 acres (2.20 km²)



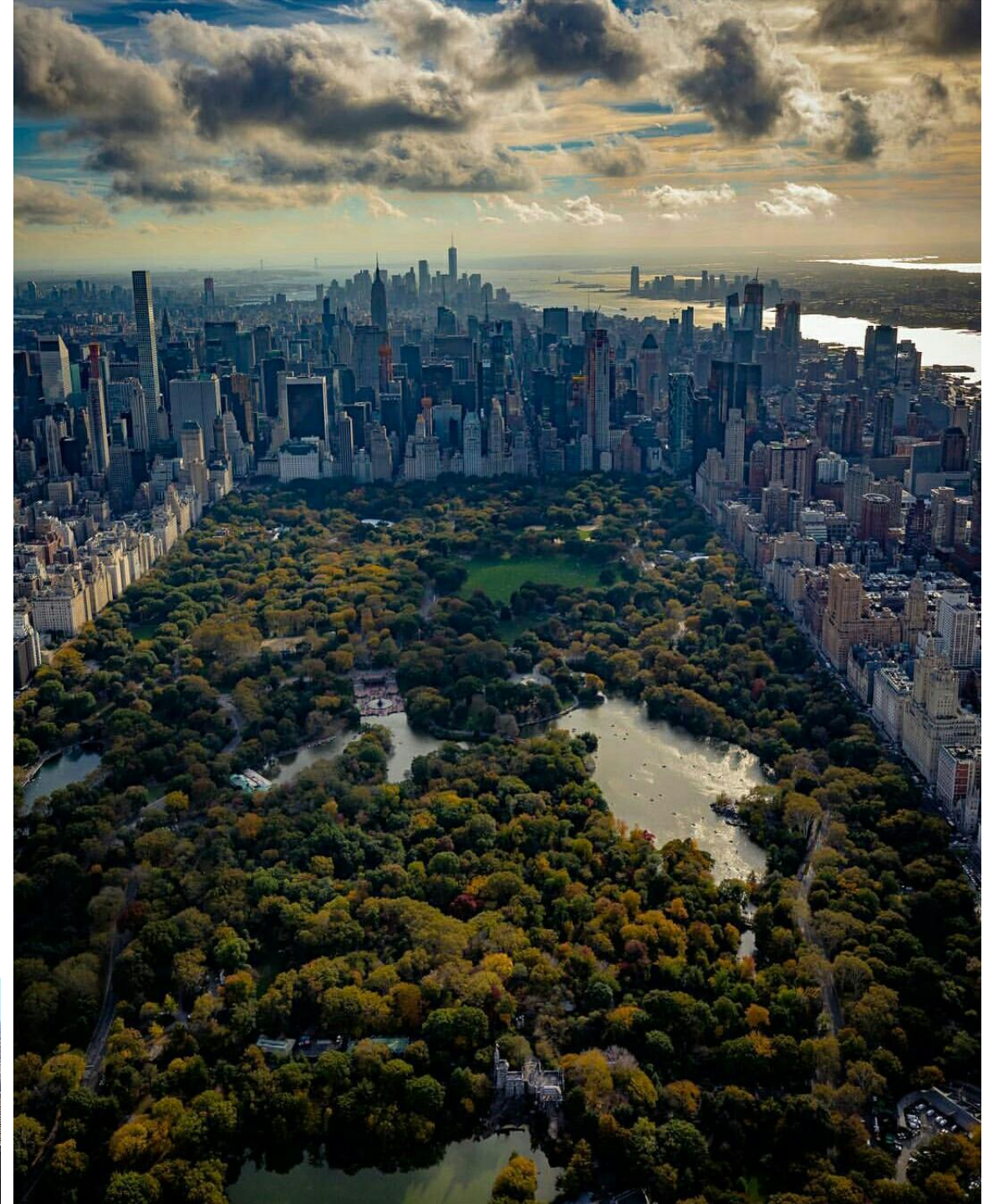
New York plan



City parks distribution in New York

General Information

- Central Park is a **Masterpiece of landscape architecture** designed in the **19th century**.
- Designated New York City's **First attractive Landmark** in 1974 which is the Central Park.
- Central Park is the **Most visited city park** in the **United States** with 40 million visitors in 2013.
- One of the most crowded areas with an **desirable skyline**.
- One of the most **filmed locations** in the world.



Form & Spirit of the Park

➤ Contrast with the context

1. **Green & Open space** Vs **Urban Grey & congested spaces.**
2. **Formal** outline within grid planned city put **Organic** inside.

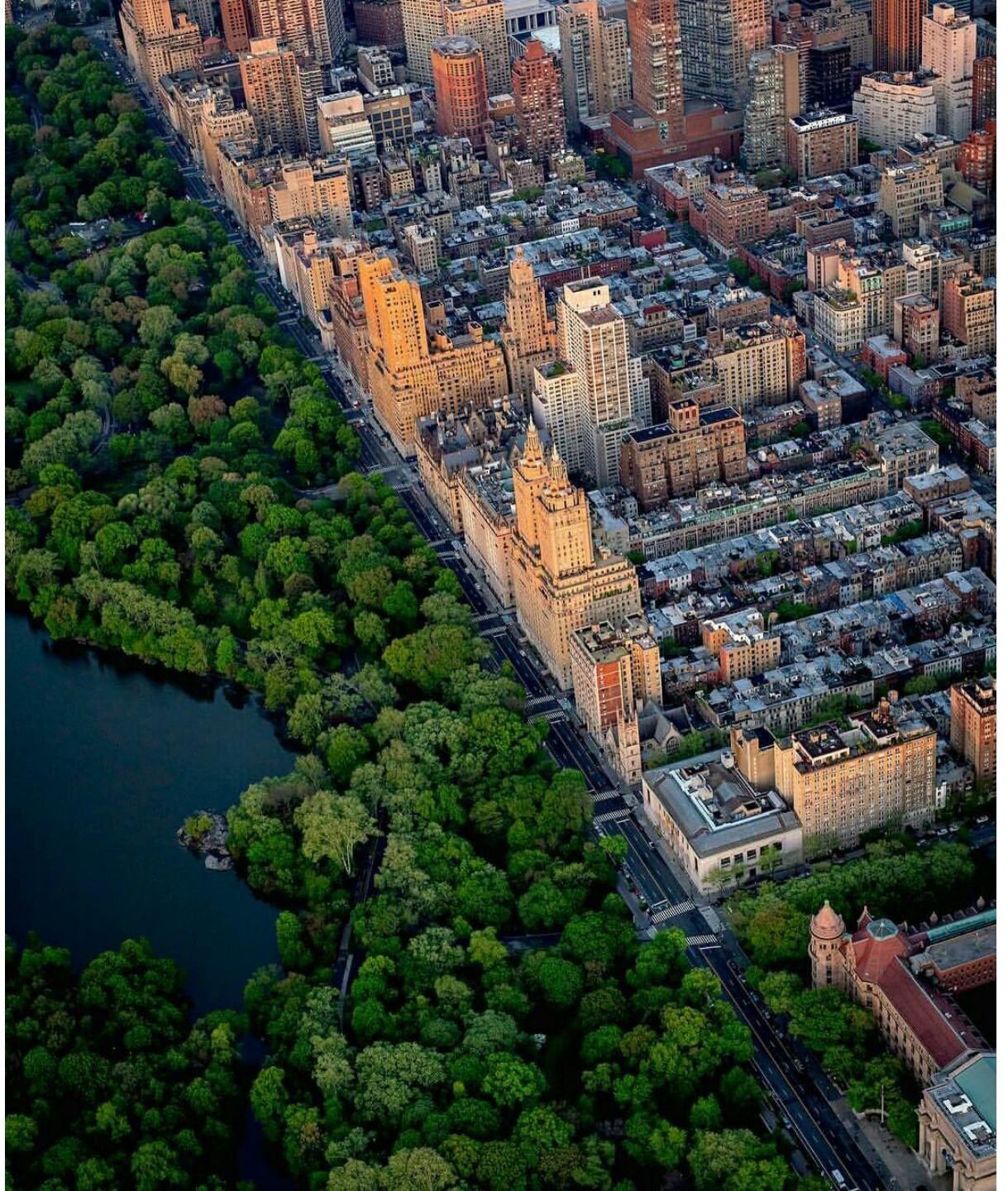
- Located in the midst of the busy and **Congested life** of New Yorkers but regards as **place for meditation.**

-
- ❖ Central Park present a **Lungs** for the City.



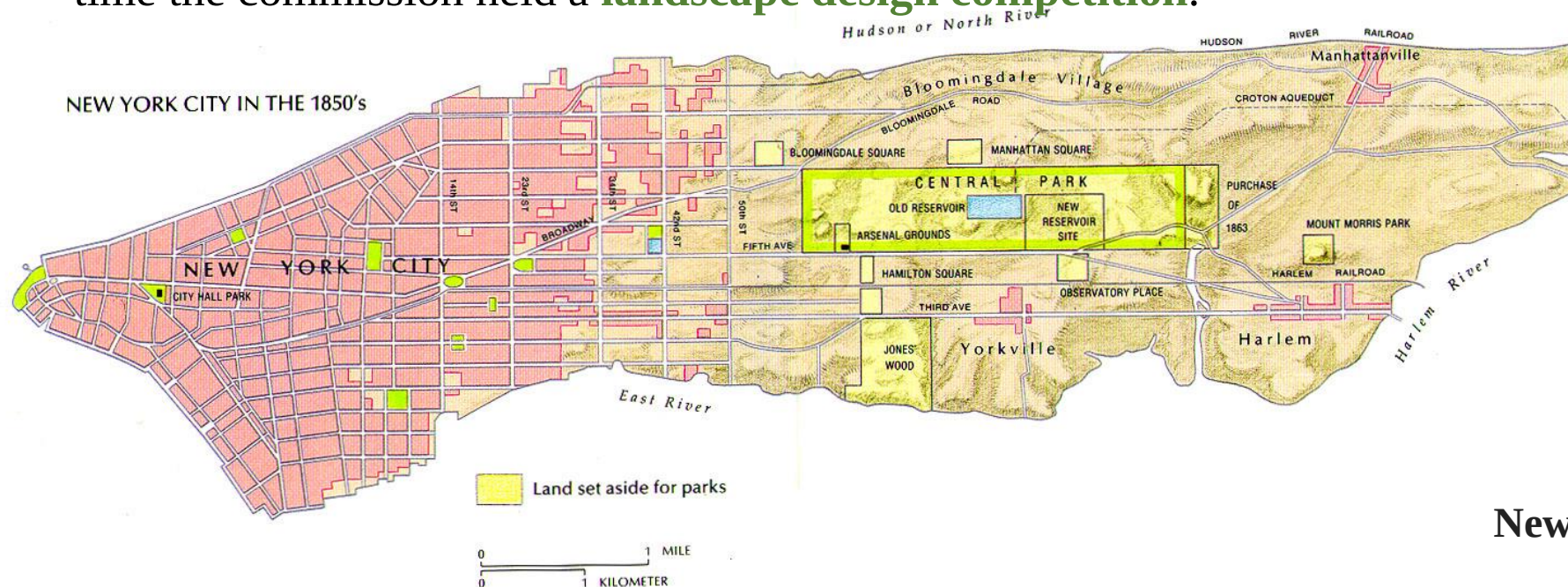


Contrast



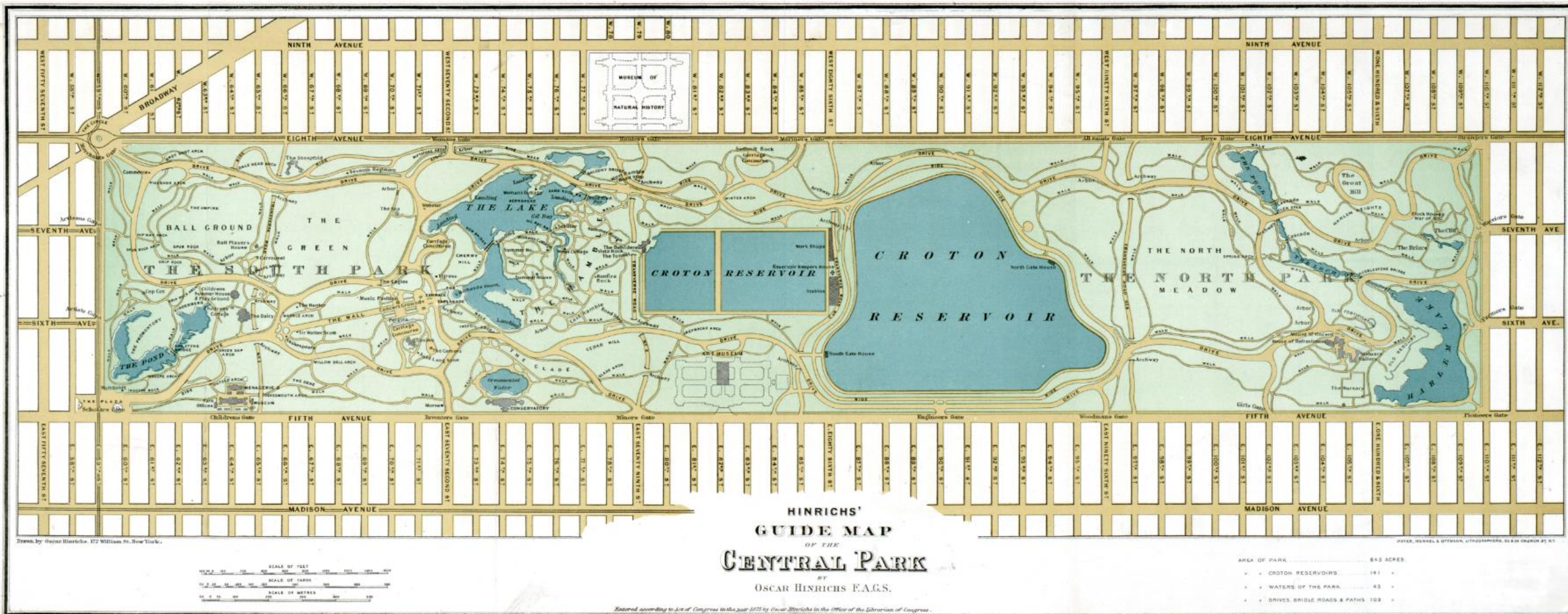
How did the idea of the Park arise?

- Between 1821 -1855, New York City nearly **quadrupled in population**. So New York city began **expanding northward up Manhattan Island**.
- This was accompanied by **Need for a great public park**, the idea began to publicize since 1844 and by **William Cullen Bryant**, as well as by the first American landscape architect, **Andrew Jackson Downing**.
- In 1850–1851, An attempt was failed to start embodies the idea.
- In 1853, the **New York legislature** settled upon a 700-acre (280 ha) area from 59th to 106th Streets for the creation of the park, at a cost of more than US\$5 million for the land.
- In 1857, the state appointed a **Central Park Commission** to oversee the development of the park, at that time the commission held a **landscape design competition**.



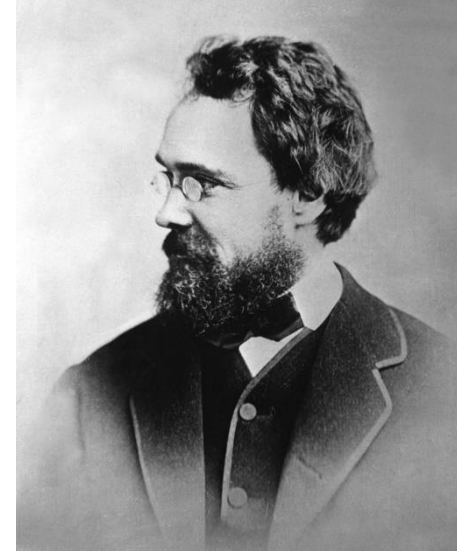
New York City plan in 1850s

In 1858, **Frederick Law Olmsted Sr.** and **Calvert Vaux** submitted the entry for the design **Competition** for a recreational space that would one day go on to become the revered **Naturalistic Hub** that it is today claiming the honor of being one of the Great Public Spaces.

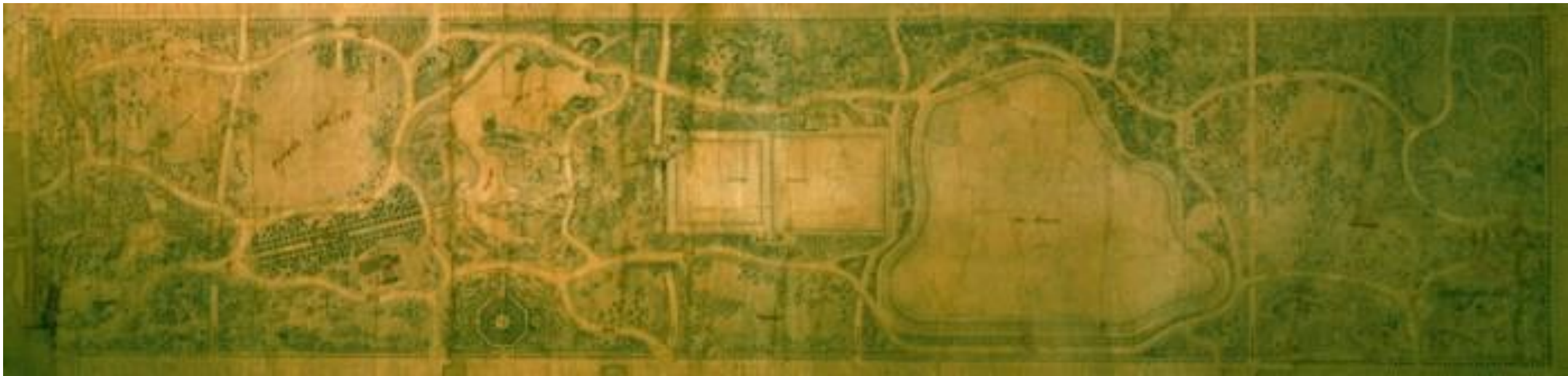




Frederick Law Olmsted.



Calvert Vaux



Original plan for Central Park called the “**Greensward Plan**” at the Museum of the City of New York. The map, which dates to 1858, is rarely on public display.

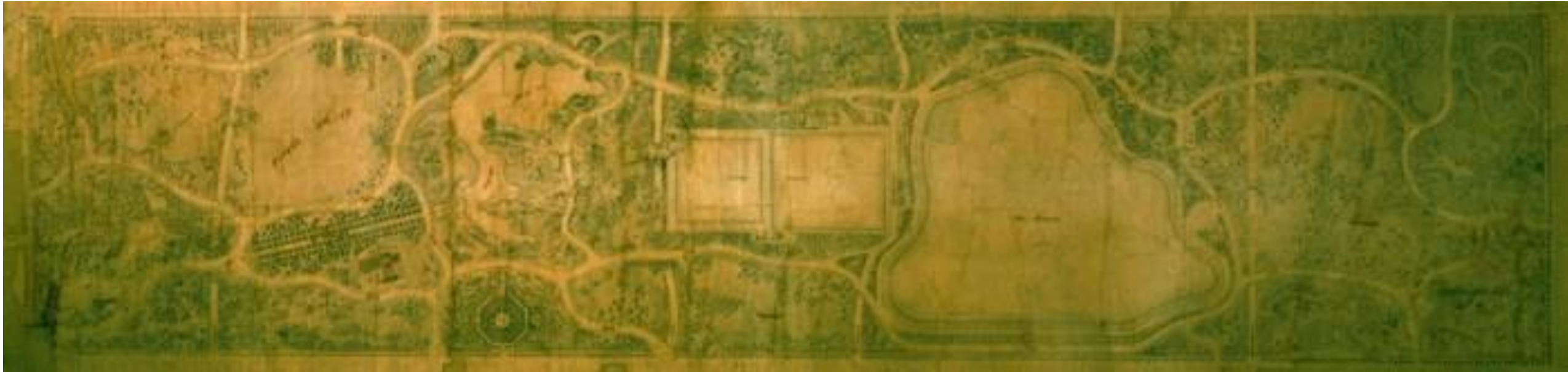
Olmsted Vision

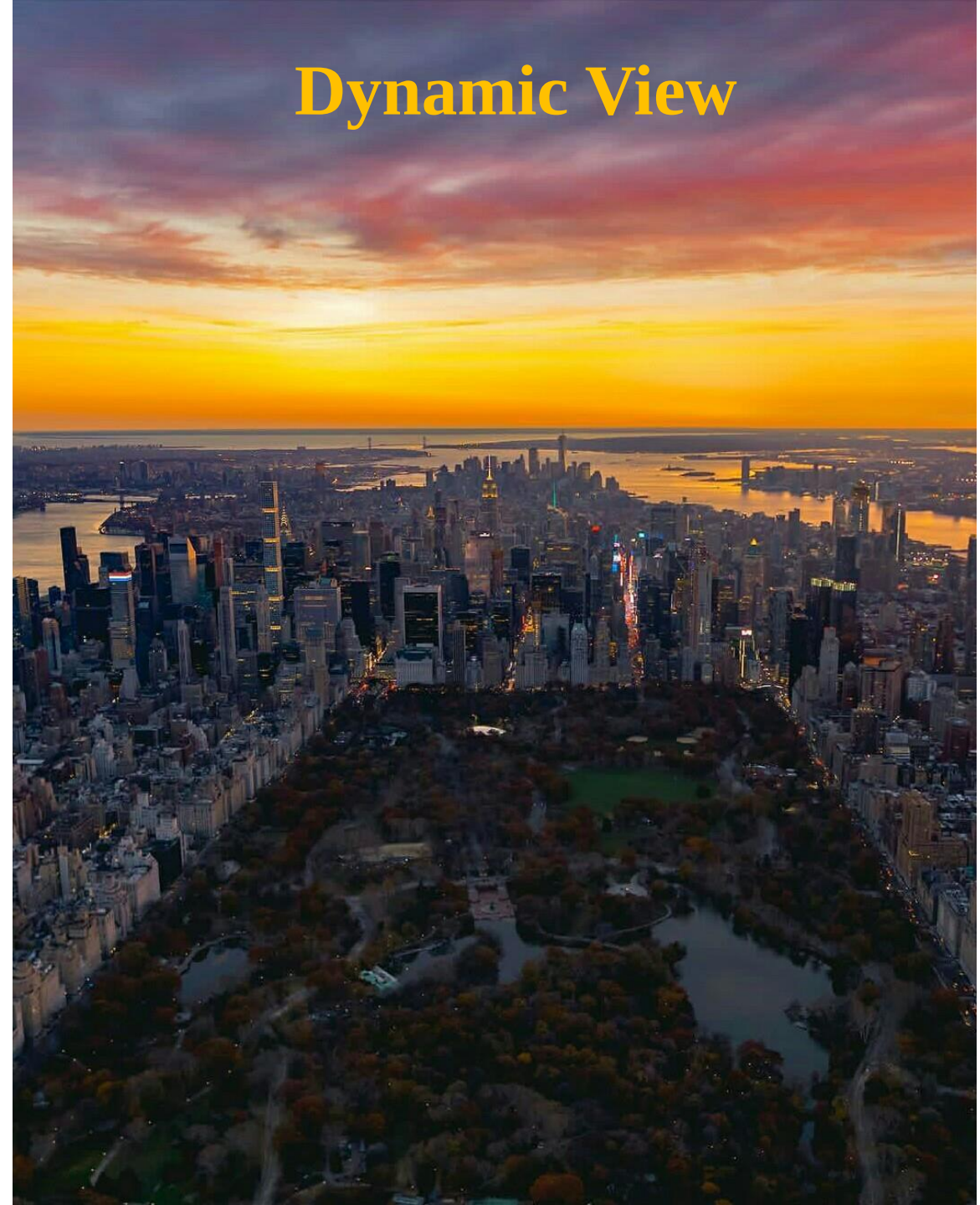
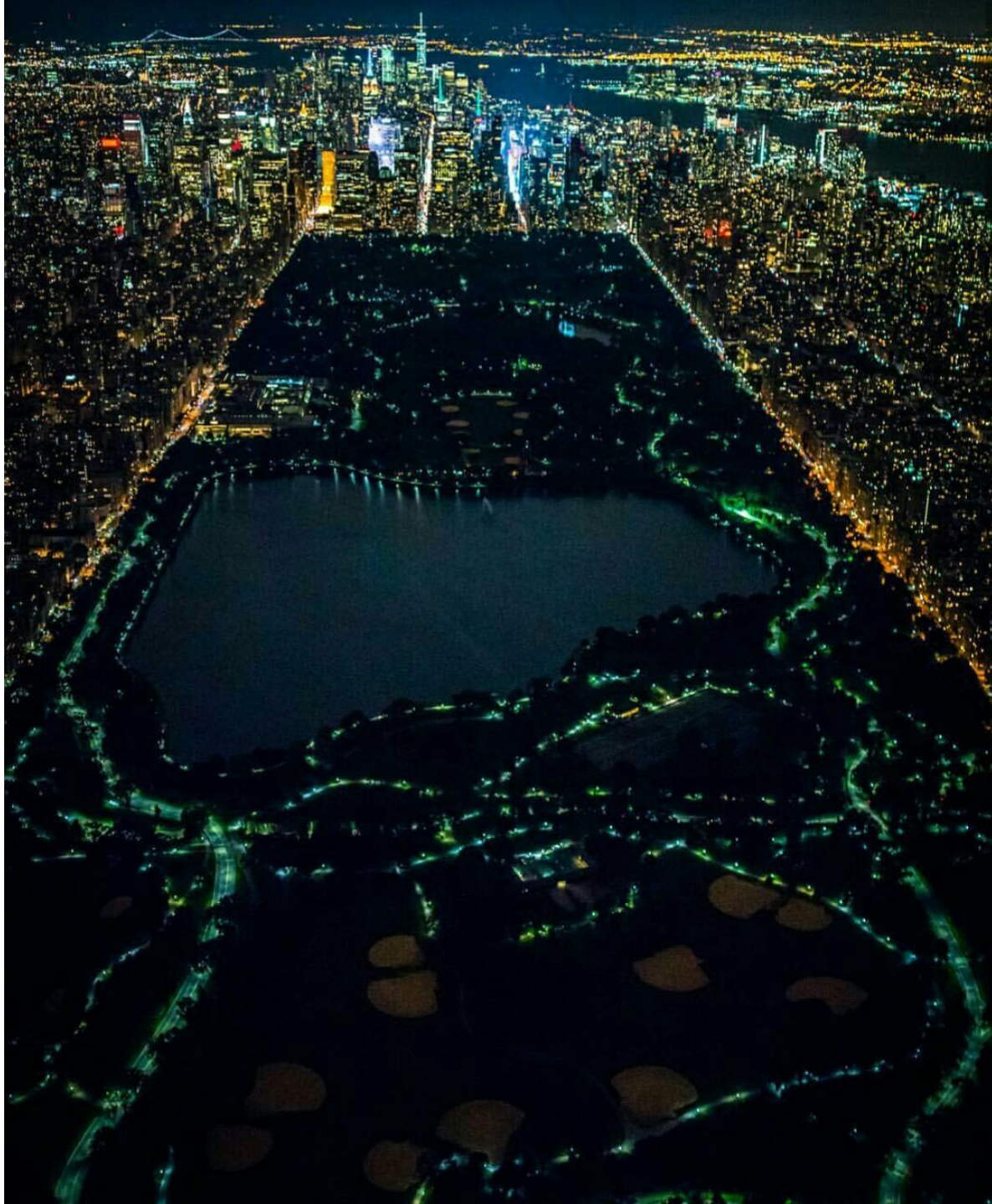
Olmsted statement: the park was "of great importance as the first real Park made in this century—a democratic development of the highest significance..."
a view probably inspired by his stay, and various trips in Europe in 1850

- The Park is a **revolutionary social experiment** for **Olmsted**, who thought of building a place where all would meet, inconsiderate of their **class** and **social standing**, a place away from the **ridiculous rules** imposed unto humans by humans.
- The purpose was to counter the European view that **Americans lacked a sense of Public responsibility** and appreciation for cultural refinement and instead possessed an unhealthy and **individualistic materialism** that prevent interest in the common good.

The power of design back to:

- The most influential innovations in the Central Park design, were the “**Separate Circulation Systems**” for **pedestrians**, **horseback riders**, and pleasure **vehicles**.
- The **Park** as **space within space** but integrated with its context naturally with **Traffic** which is entirely hidden in sunken roadways screened with **densely planted shrub belts**.









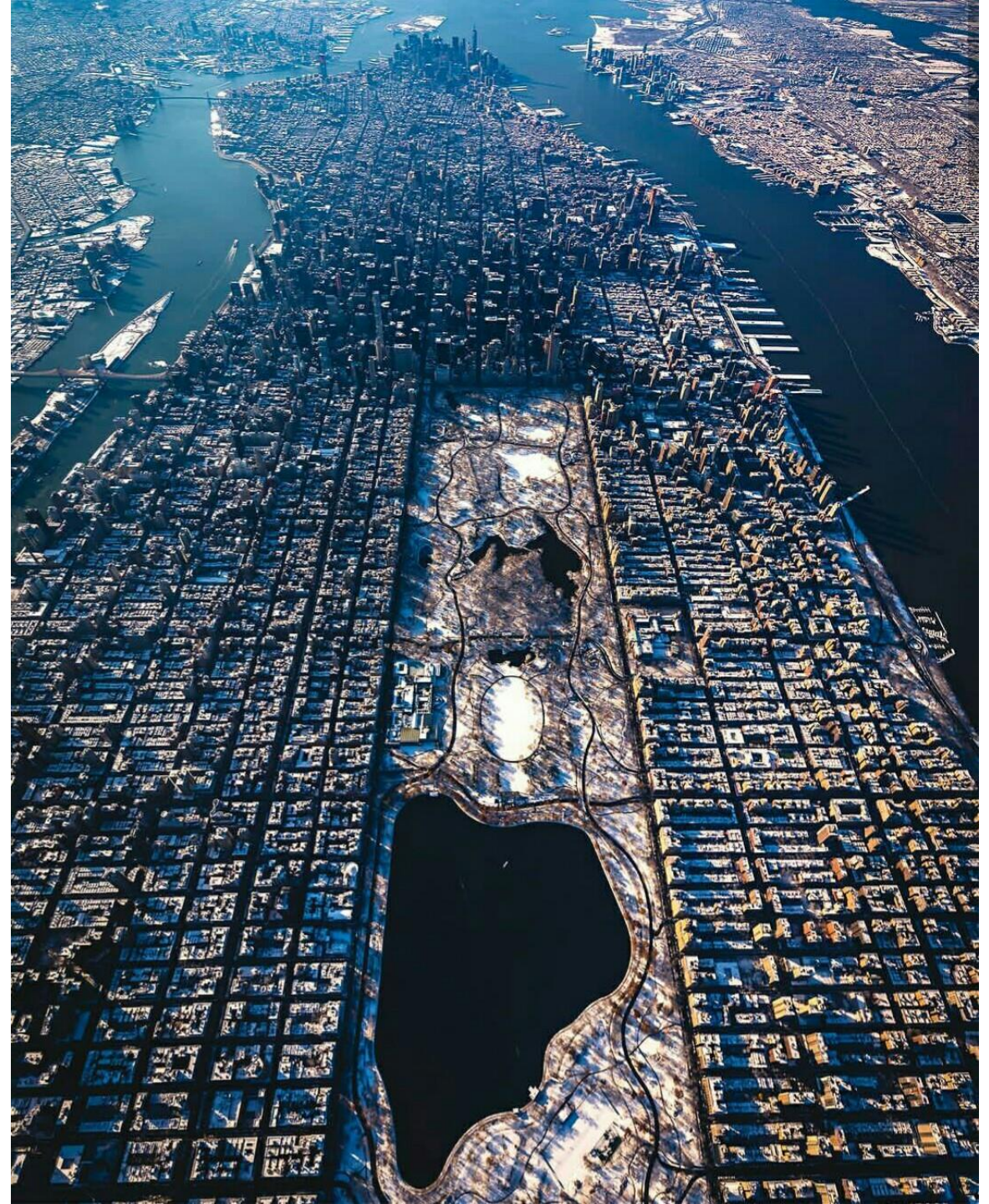














Building & Construction the Park

- **Before the construction** of the park could start, **the area had to be cleared of its inhabitants**, most of whom were quite **poor**.
- **Between 1858 -1873**,
 - The construction of the park had come a long way, and most of the **major obstacles had been overcome**.
 - During this period, **more than 14,000 m³** of topsoil had been transported in from **New Jersey**, as the original soil wasn't good enough to sustain the various trees, shrubs and the plants the “**Greensward Plan**” called for.
 - Also included were the **more than four million (trees, shrubs & plants)** representing the approximately **1,500 species** which were to lay the foundation for today's park.

➤ **Around the turn of the 20th Century**

The Park faced several new **challenges**;

- **Cars** had been invented and were becoming **commonplace**, bringing with them their burden of **pollution**.
- The **general mental view** of the people was **beginning to change**. No longer were parks to be used **only for walks** and **picnics** in an idyllic environment, but now **also for sports, and similar recreation**.

➤ **During 1943**, the Parks Commissioner & planner **Robert Moses** enhanced the Park by adding:

1. the Wollman rink
2. 21 playgrounds
3. Famed sculptures like 'Alice in Wonderland.

➤ 1970s

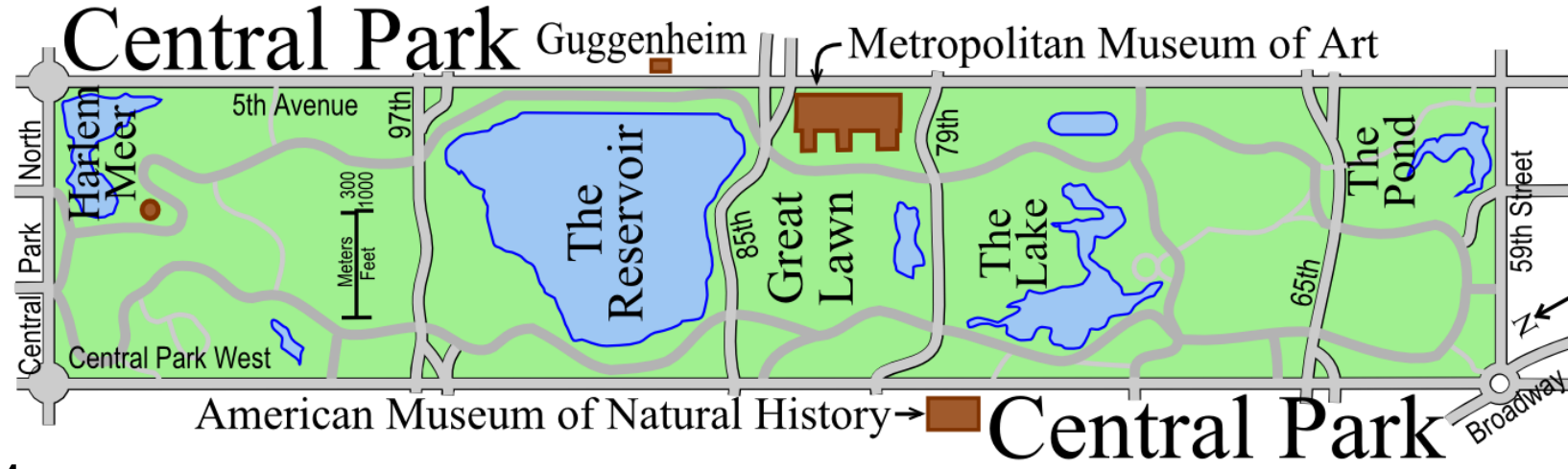
- The **Public Theatre's annual Shakespeare** in the Park festival was introduced in this period.
- The Park became a **Place for events** of **unprecedented scale**, including (political meetings and demonstrations, festivals, and massive concerts).

➤ 1980s up to now

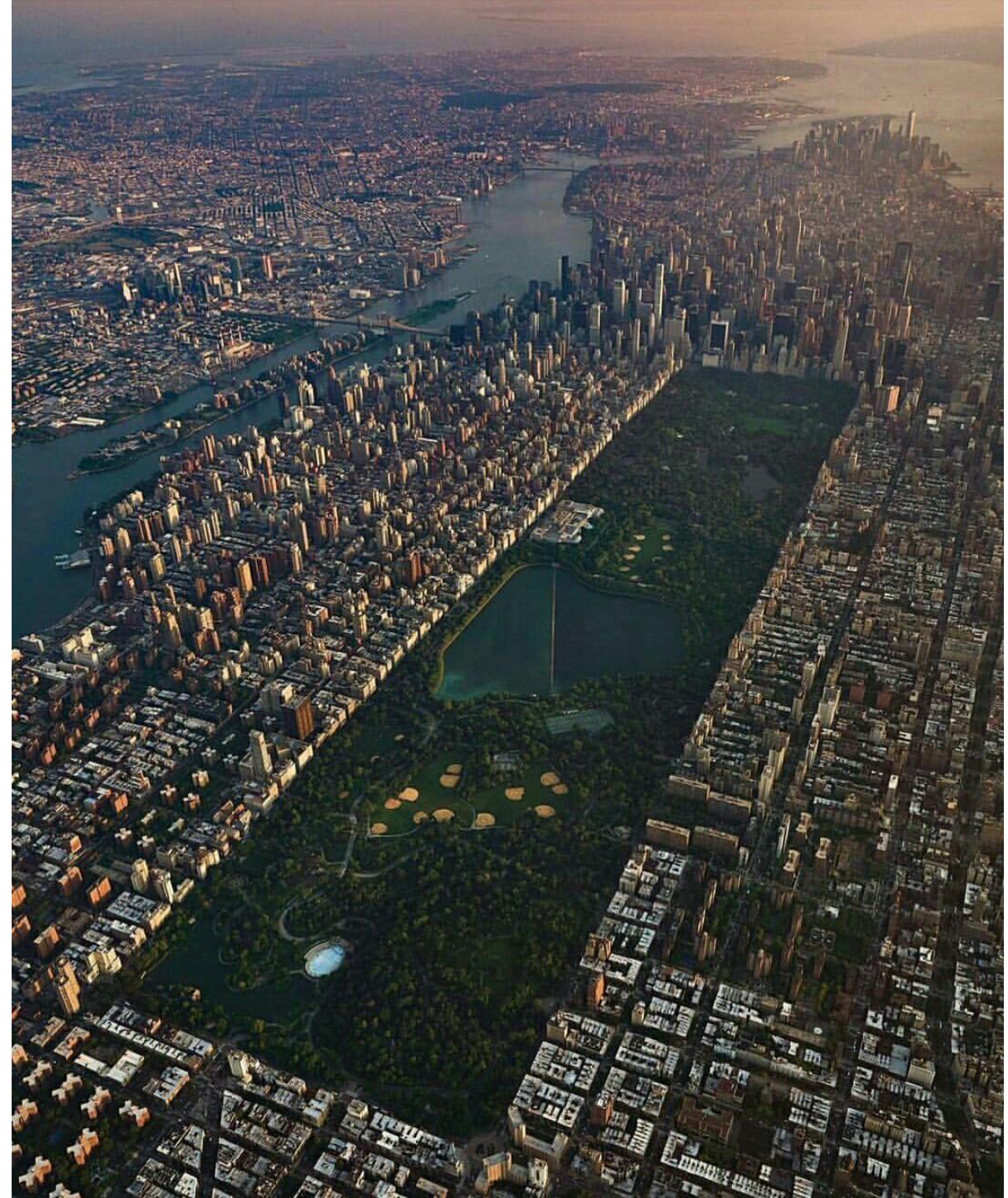
- The main thing in 1980's was preparing a **Comprehensive plan** for rebuilding the Park with the completion of it in 1985 .
- After that **Management changes** were done and **maintenance operations** were managed.
- Since 2007, the **Conservancy** had invested approximately **\$350 million** in the **Restoration and Management** of the Park. The **Central Park Conservancy** is the not-for-profit organization that raises the Park's nearly \$80 million annual budget and is responsible for the work it takes to keep Central Park beautiful.

Central Park Contains

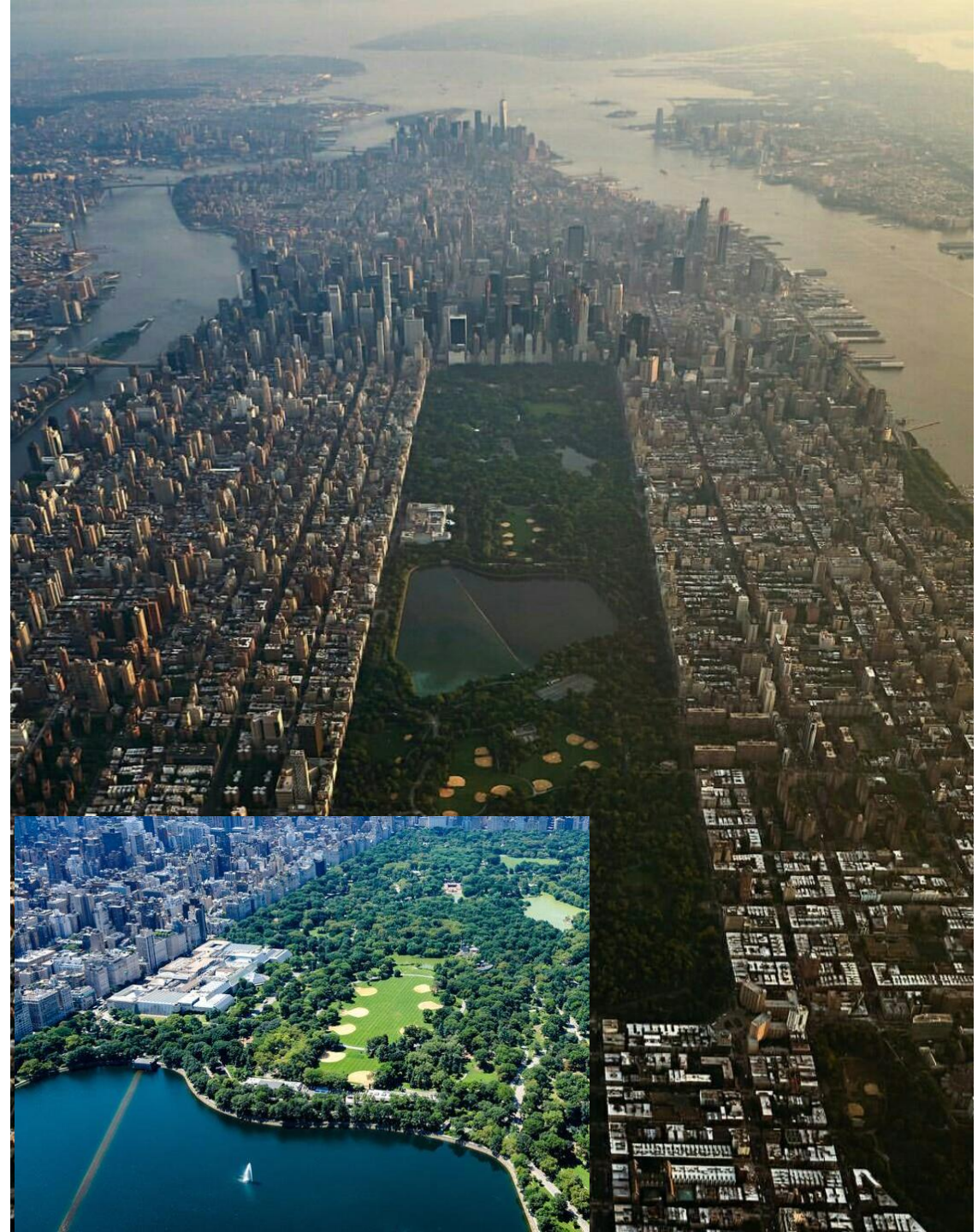
1. A number of **Lakes**
2. The **Reservoir**
3. **Sports** facilities
4. **Theaters**
5. Central Park **Zoo**
6. **Performance** areas.
7. **Metropolitan Museum of Art**



Reservoir



- **The wall down in the middle** of the Reservoir is a part the original plan for the Reservoir,
- It seems **Hidden** because of the water-body's depth **34-40 feet**.
- The Reservoir, like all water bodies in Central Park, is **man-made** and can be operated like the **depth** of a bathtub.
- At **Winter** the level is lower to help accommodate spring snow melt. The structure is a dividing wall that allows state authorities to control the two water basins and valves.



Metropolitan Museum of Art

- Is the **largest** art museum in the United States
- The **Fifth most visited** museum of any kind
- The Metropolitan Museum of Art was **Founded in 1870**



Activities in the Central Park

- **Sports**
 - Baseball and Softball
 - Basketball
 - Bicycle Riding
- **Bird Watching**
 - Boating
 - Chess
- **Ice Skating**
 - Lawn Sports
- Model **Sailboats**
 - Paddleball
 - Running
 - New York City **Marathon**
 - Sledding
 - Soccer
 - Tennis
 - In-line Skating
- **Fishing**
- Volleyball
- **Wall Climbing**
 - Play Grounds
 - Relaxation
 - Horse-Drawn Carriages
- **Zoo**
 - Bouldering
 - Cross-Country Skiing





Sports



Ice Skating

Wollman rink



Watching Birds



Central Park welcomes more than **270 bird species** each year.

Meditation



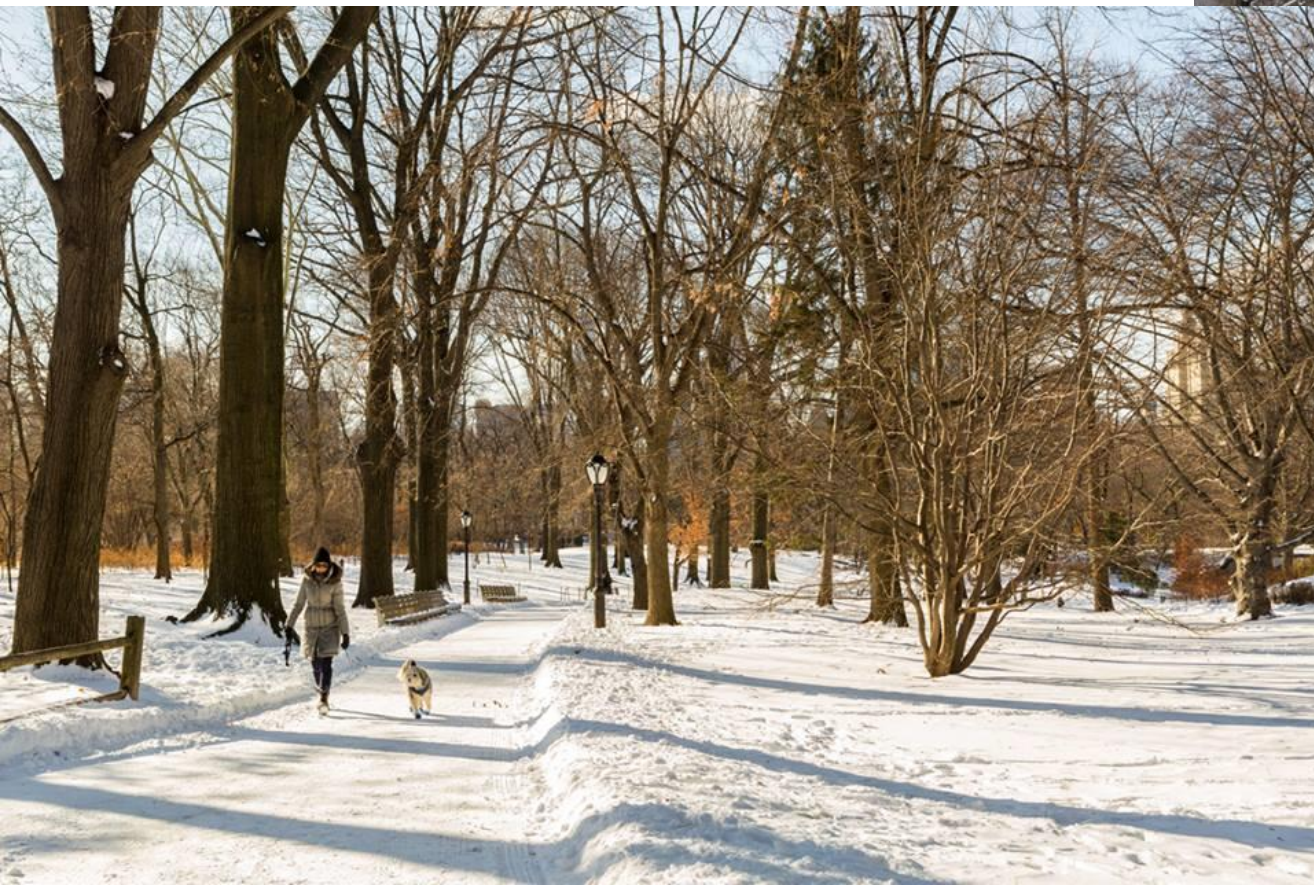
Relaxation

Boating



Running

Walking



Hiking



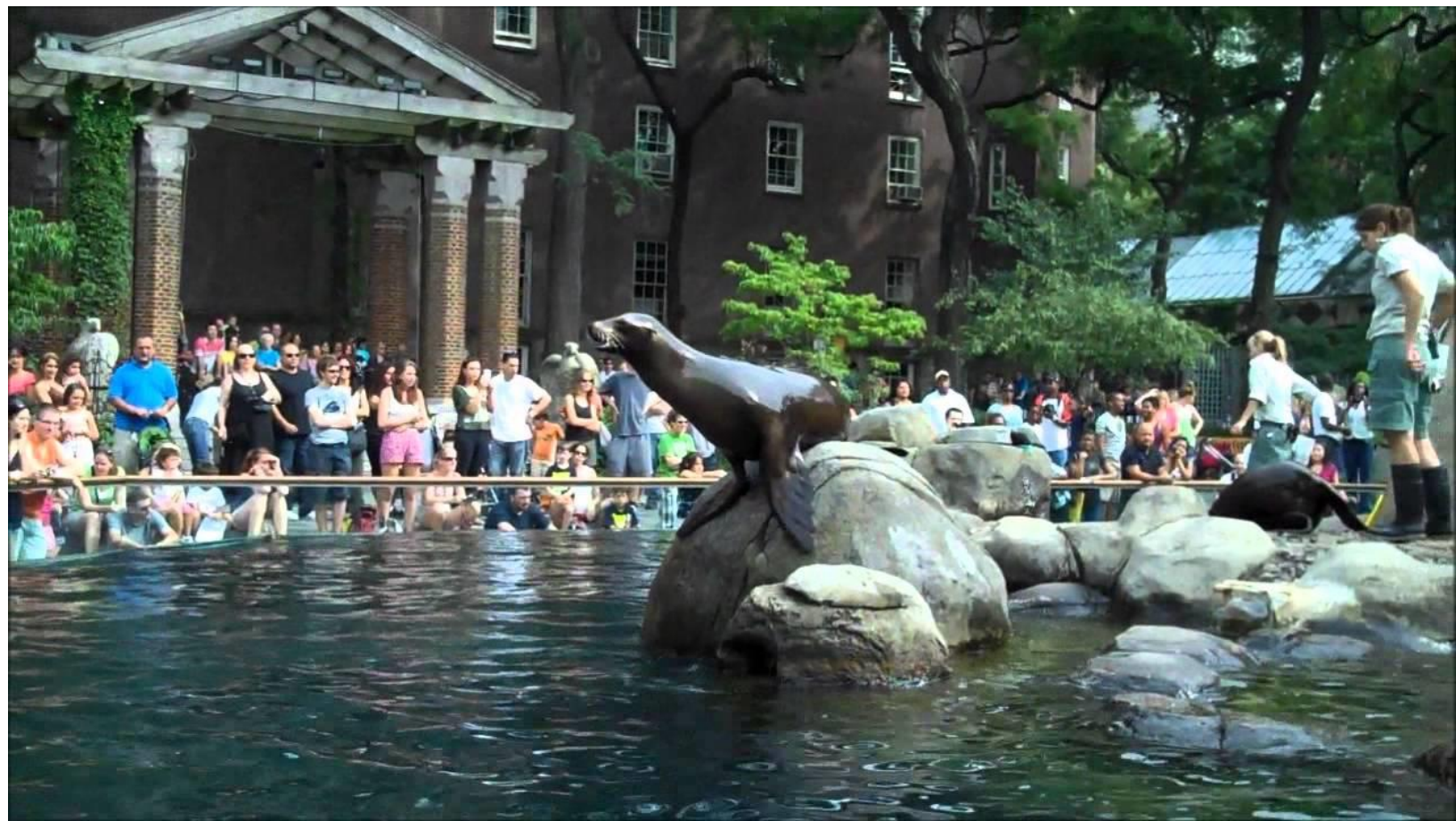
Riding Bicycle

Watching Film





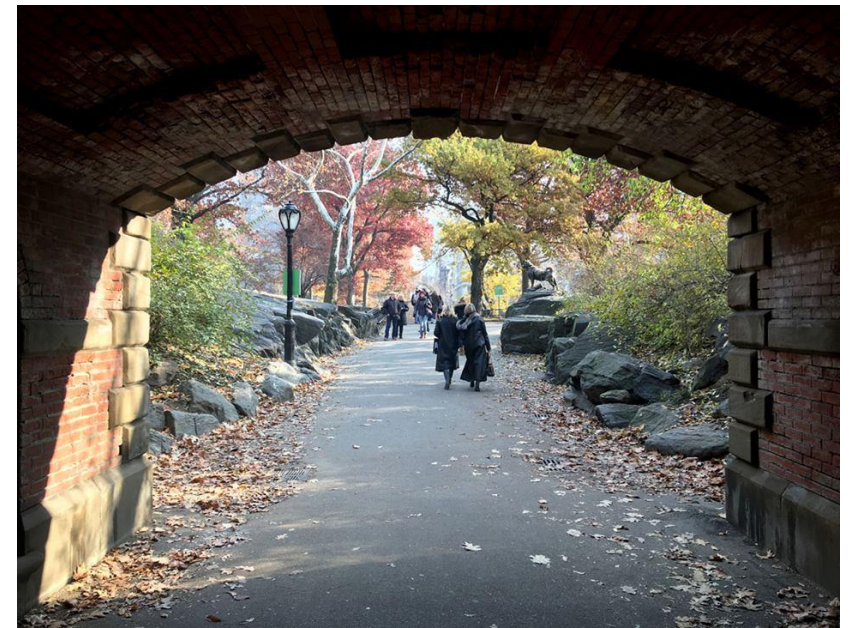
Zoo





Bedrock

Pathways



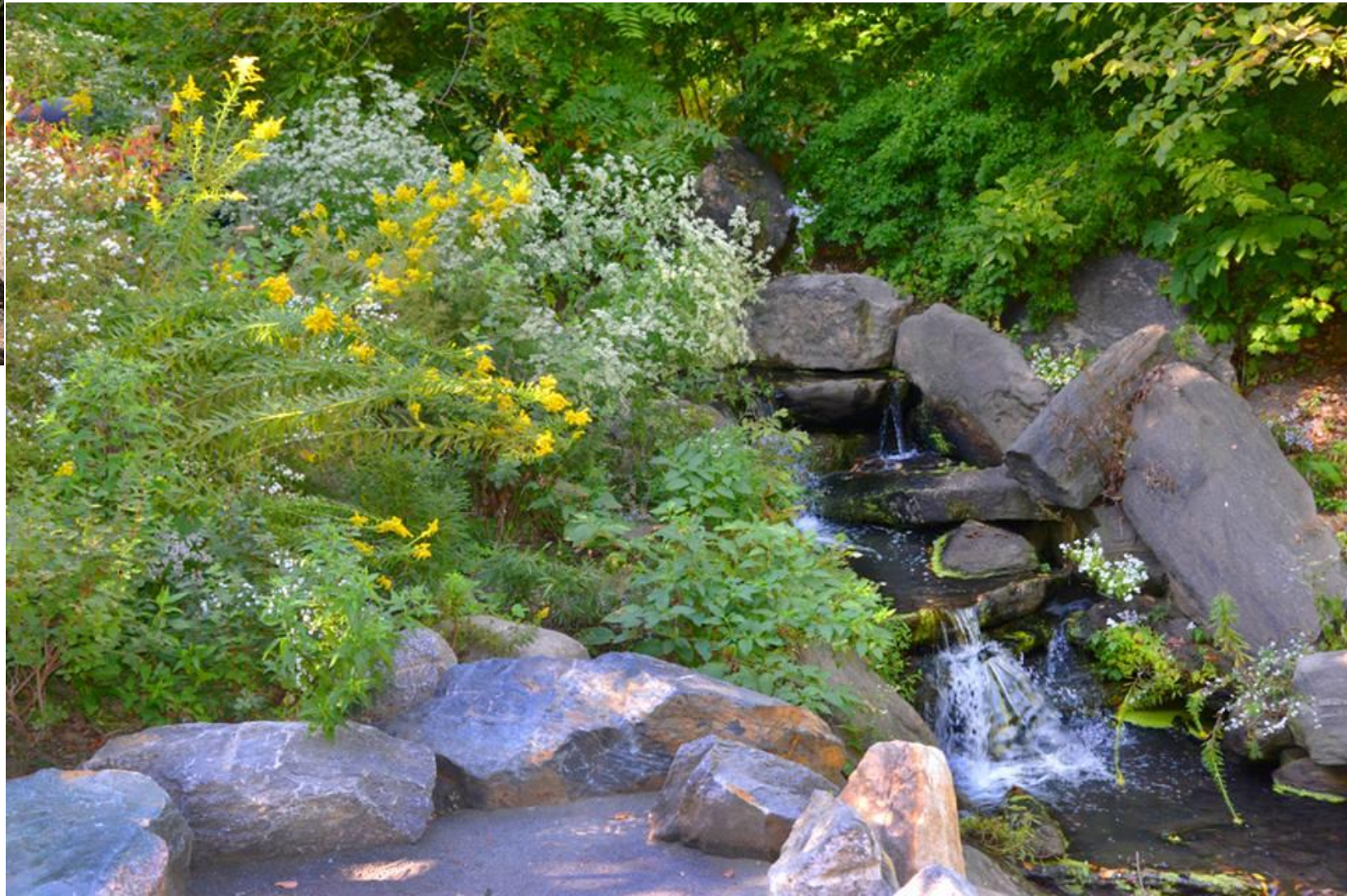


Bridges

The Park including 36 bridges



Turtle lake

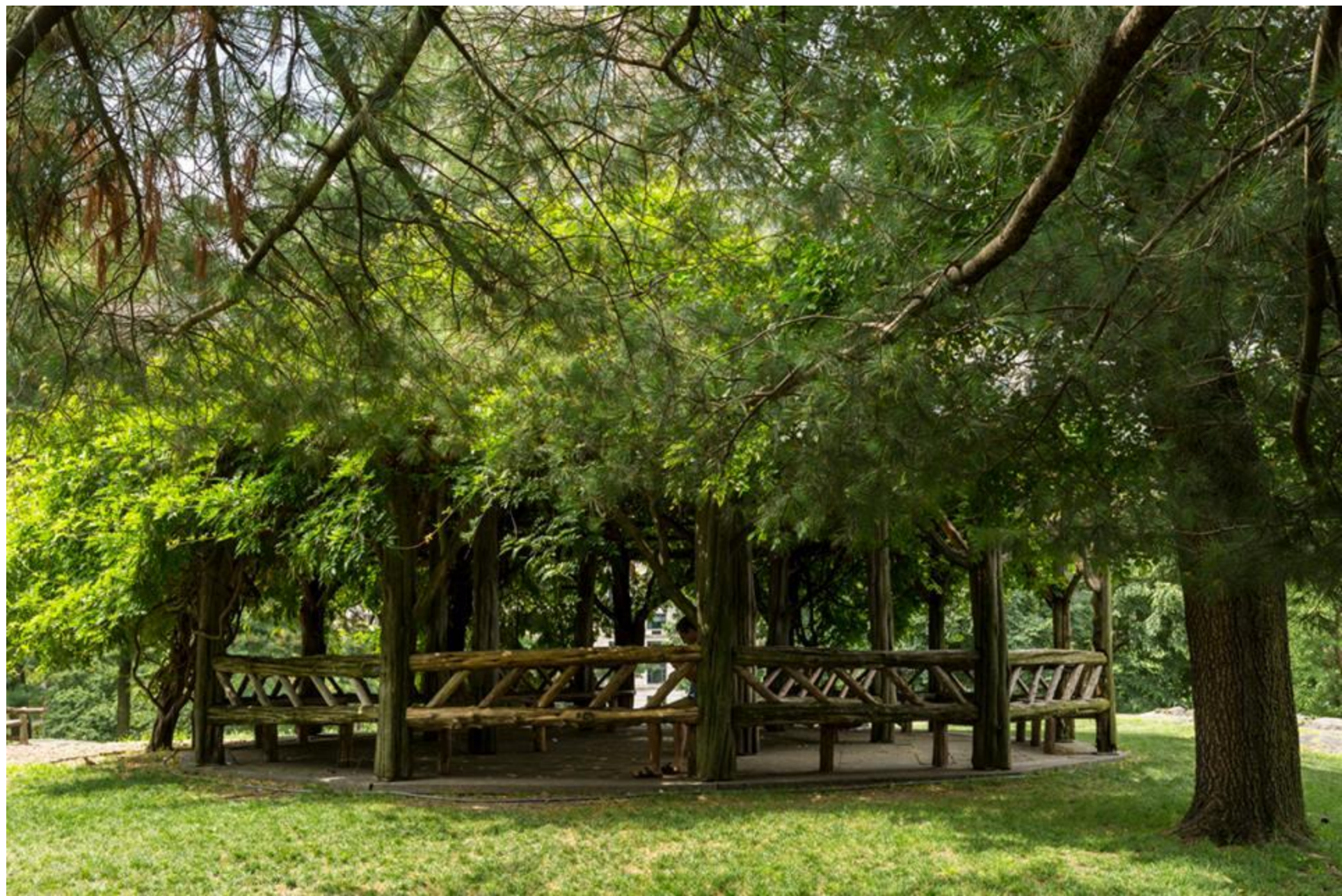


Sculptures









Forests



Now more than 20,000 trees thrive here.

Thank You ..

